

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Off-netting calls

For free direct dialing to 1-800, 888, 866 or 877 toll-free prefixes, Aviano members with DSN access are advised to use DSN 809-40FFDSN (809-463-3376). This number, authorized by the Joint Staff, is designed to reduce the workload of base operators and call holding time and improve services to the DSN users. Access/usage is authorized for all DSN users.

Focus group

The 31st Medical Group is hosting a maternal child services focus group 6 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Life Skills conference room at Area One, Bldg. 108. Any one who is pregnant or has children up to the age of three is welcome to attend. The purpose of the group is to discuss what works well for parents in the community and what can be improved upon. For more information, call Laura Gero, RN, BSN, Family Advocacy Nurse, at Ext. 5667, Maj. Debra Egan or Capt. Marianne Hafner at Ext. 5863.

**By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

Col. Roberto Sardo assumed command of the Italian air force at Aviano from Col. Rosario Scarpolini during a ceremony here Sept. 15.

Colonel Sardo, like most people, was thrilled when he found out he was coming to Aviano.

"I love this place and the idea of working in a dual-nation environment was very exciting," he said. "Aviano is a great base with great people and my first impression was of the open friendship shared between the U.S. and Italian community."

High on his list of goals for Aviano is enhancing that friendship among the base and local population.

"When we work as a team, everything can be achieved. One of my goals is to keep up the good relationships we have here," Colonel Sardo said. "I think friendship, cooperation and honest work are the best ways to achieve this."



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

General Claudio Zappulla, Air Division commander, left, and Col. Roberto Sardo, right, salute Aviano's Italian and U.S. troops during the Italian air force change of command here Sept. 15.

Arriving from Vicenza where he was the vice commander of Requirements, Programs and Evaluation, Colonel Sardo is no stranger to working with American troops.

"At the COFA [Italian Air Force Operations Command] we worked side-by-side with Americans," said Colonel Sardo. Working with the U.S. pilots at Aviano, Colonel Sardo said, is like going back to the

early days of his career.

"This is a great opportunity to exchange experiences; there's always something to learn and I feel younger, like I'm coming back to my operational years."

Born Jan. 2, 1958 in Conegliano, Colonel Sardo joined the Italian Air Force Academy in 1977 where he obtained a pilot license in

See ITAF, page 5

Marquee messages: To advertise on the base marquee, send event information details to 31fwmarquee@aviano.af.mil.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: *n*, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

| | Hours | Sorties |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| 31st FW goal | 281.4 | 112 |
| | -13.8 | 0 |

Information current as of Thursday.



Purple Heart

One 31st Maintenance Squadron Airman lives to tell the story of the day he was wounded in action and receives a Purple Heart.

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High gear

Cooler weather doesn't mean the end of sports. Grab a hot chocolate and watch as the intra-mural soccer season kicks into high gear.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing commander

World's Finest-- over the last few weeks you all have done a great job sending our people, jets and equipment in support of operations "down range." In all, we deployed about 700 people and, for the most part, everything went exceptionally well. However, there were a few discrepancies reported. We had a lot of time to prepare for these deployments so there really aren't any excuses. Our standard is no discrepancies. Our business is too dangerous and too serious to take any unnecessary chances. Let's work on this and make sure we meet the "World's Finest" standard next time around.

Of course, let's not forget the families left behind. Even though it's part of our business, it's still difficult to see a loved one deploy. I challenge families who have a member deployed to take advantage of all the programs Aviano offers. We're hosting two special briefings for family members of deployed Airmen on Wednesday, 5 October, at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Area One. The theme is "No Questions Left Unanswered." I will speak for a few minutes and then I'll let different base organizations including finance, the Family Support Center and the legal office explain benefits, programs and other information you should be aware of. C'mon out, y'all!

On the other end of the deployment cycle, I want to say welcome back to the hundreds of Airmen who just returned from deployment! You've made our nation proud and I'm proud to have you as members of the 31st Fighter Wing! Remember to do everything necessary to fully reintegrate. Follow your checklist, attend the required briefings, return your equipment and take ample time to get reacquainted with your family, friends and unit.

It's not always easy to return home after several months away. If you have problems or concerns, there are people on base, whether it's your first sergeant or chaplain, who can help you through the process.

Commanders, supervisors and friends of people returning to Aviano, you have an espe-

cially vital role in helping our people reintegrate. Be there for them. Listen to their concerns and needs. Show them the respect and consideration they've earned by serving our nation in harm's way.

I also wanted to use this forum to recognize and thank the Company Grade Officers Council and the other volunteers who organized last Friday's Air Force Ball. It was the best event of this kind I have ever attended! You all worked hard and the results were exceptional ... thanks very much!

This coming Thursday, we will all participate in the "Aviano Olympics." The day will begin with a two-mile formation run. This will be followed by squadron competitions in events such as dodge ball, bench press, tennis, bocce, volleyball, soccer and basketball. The events will conclude with free hot dogs and hamburgers at the snack bar at the soft ball fields in Area E, a first sergeants verses Airmen tug of war, Chiefs verses Eagles sumo wrestling and a presentation of the "Top Squadron" award on the Dragon Fitness Center football field. It will be a great day of team building and fun. See y'all out there.

Finally, last weekend we had another DUI. There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel of a car and driving after drinking. If you are going to go out, know your options, have a plan, and go as a team. We need to take care of each other better than this. Don't wait until the end of the night to decide how you'll get home. Then if all else fails, call AADD at 0434-66-5938. The bottom line is if you drink, don't drive and if you're going to drive, don't drink!

In closing, I want you all to know how much I appreciate everything you do for the wing and for the United States Air Force. It's an honor to be your commander... I look forward to seeing y'all around the "World's Finest" Ranch next week. Have a safe, enjoyable weekend.



Airman 1st Class
Jason Armstrong

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Jason Armstrong, broadcast producer, Aviano News Team Member

Unit: Detachment 8, American Forces Network

Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Hobbies: Studying the Bible, coaching, playing basketball and cooking.

Why joined: Felt the conviction to serve my country and show my gratitude for enjoying the freedoms and liberties the United States provided me and my family.

Accomplishments: "Airman Armstrong is a stellar performer with an equally shining attitude," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Land, AFN detachment superintendent. "During his short tenure here, Jason has shown extraordinary passion for AFN's news mission."

ITAF, from page 1

the SIAI SF260 aircraft. He then attended pilot training at Lecce Air Base, Italy, and at Amendola Air Base, Italy, where he received his military pilot's license in 1982.

He was assigned to the 4th Wing, Grosseto Air Base where he attended a qualification course on the F-104 fighter. Other assignments included teaching as a flight instructor with the G-91 and T-1 aircraft at Amendola AB and working as the 28th Group commander after he attended Air War College in 1994.

In 1996, Col Sardo was assigned to Rome where he took care of planning large exercises in Italy and abroad until his nomination to COFA vice commander in Vicenza.

Colonel Sardo is a pilot flying the Italian AMX aircraft at Istrana Air Base and with gliders in Guidonia, and has logged more than 3,100 flight hours.

Besides his professional goals, Colonel Sardo has one personal goal he hopes to achieve while here – flying in an F-16.

"I have never flown in an F-16 so I would love the opportunity to do so," he said.

After four years here, the prior Italian air force commander, Colonel Scarpolini is headed to the Italian Air Force Operations Command in Ferrara, Italy.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Col. Roberto Sardo prepares to assume command of Aviano's Italian air force from Col. Rosario Scarpolini Sept. 15.

Volunteering: Aviano's Thrift Shop seeks volunteers to organize and run the shop. To volunteer, call Ext. 5428.

Tips for preparing cars for winter

Winter is the harshest season for vehicles; the cold weather can affect any part that is weak. To ensure you aren't left in the cold this winter, here are some tips to prepare your car:

- Flush the cooling system and replace the coolant. Adding antifreeze to radiators prevents the water the vehicle needs to cool down the engine from freezing. If engine water freezes, it's not able to cool down the motor, which could lead to a cracked radiator or a blown engine.

- Replace the windshield wiper blades. Put windshield washer fluid in the windshield washer reservoir (plain water will freeze).

- Have the battery serviced (clean the battery terminal ends and add water) and load-tested to check its ability to hold a charge. Vehicles take more power to start in the winter so it's best to do a battery test to make sure it has enough charge for the winter. If a battery fails a re-charge test, invest the money into buying a new one.

- If the battery is more than four years old, replace it.

- Check all the hoses and belts - if any of these have signs of extensive

wear such as cracks, it is best to replace them.

- Use a tire gauge to check the tire pressure. Air contracts with cold, and the tires may become low as the temperature drops.

- Make sure the tires are in good condition. If you are not sure what this means, ask a mechanic (in a shop that doesn't sell tires) for an opinion.

- The electrical system of the vehicle should be checked. Make sure the distributor cap, points, condenser, ignition coil, spark plugs and spark plug cables are all in good shape.

- Make sure there is air in the spare tire and that all the proper tire-changing equipment is in the trunk.

- Check the lights, heater and defroster.

- Keep the gas tank as full as possible to prevent moisture from freezing in the gas lines.

- Get a brake check if you haven't had one in the last six months.

- Put together an emergency winter kit for the trunk of your car: blanket, extra boots and gloves, ice scraper, small snow shovel, flashlight and kitty litter for traction when stuck in the snow. (*Information provided by www.roadandtravel.com*)

An enlisted perspective

**By Staff Sgt.
Malik Mayfield
31st Fighter Wing**

When I was told I would have the chance to be a part of an event that had only taken place a handful of times, I didn't believe it. At least until it happened ...

Throughout history, the Order of the Sword ceremony has remained one of the most prestigious honors the enlisted force can bestow upon an individual.

Before attending the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's recent Order of the Sword ceremony given in honor of Gen. Robert H. Fogle-song, USAFE commander, I had only read about the tradition. The award, considered a great honor, recognizes a stand-out individual who has made a difference in the enlisted community. After witnessing this rare event, I feel truly blessed by the experience. I will never forget the day I witnessed a profound moment of history occur. It was an honor, a privilege and a memory that will last a lifetime.

Tops in Blue seeks talented Airmen

**By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency**

The all-Air Force musical entertainment troupe is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 and 3 p.m. Oct. 16 in Hangar One.

Each year, Tops in Blue provides free shows to more than 350,000 military members in more than 30 countries around the world, including war zones.

Solely made up of Air Force volunteers, Tops in Blue holds an annual contest to find new talent.

The Worldwide Talent Contest is scheduled for Nov. 6 through 14 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 5.

Besides competing for the Roger Award, given to the best performers in five separate categories, participants also vie for positions on the 2006 Air Force Expeditionary Entertainment Troupe -- Tops in Blue.

"We need singers, dancers, musicians, comedians and anyone else who has talent they'd like to share with the world," said Jeri White, Tops in Blue production manager with the Air Force Services Agency.

Contestants do not need professional training to qualify.

"They can be self-taught and don't have to be able to read music," Ms. White said. "All they need is talent and a strong desire to improve during the touring season."



File photo

Tops in Blue entertains Aviano during the 2004 performance. Tops in Blue is looking for talented Airmen to join their ranks and will host a worldwide talent contest Nov. 6-14 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Tops in Blue will also perform for Aviano at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 and 3 p.m. Oct. 16 in Hangar One.

Applicants interested in competing in the Air Force Talent Contest and auditioning for Tops in Blue 2006 should submit a videotape of themselves performing, along with an entertainer application, to: HQ AFSVA, SVPCE; 10100 Reunion Place; Ste. 402; San Antonio, Texas 78216-4138. Airmen can obtain an application by calling (210) 652-6566 or through the Air Force Services web site at www.afsv.

af.mil or www.topsinblue.com.

Videotapes will be reviewed at the agency's entertainment branch, and those individuals who display talents the judges feel can best support the team will be invited to compete at the Worldwide Talent Contest. Funding for the contest is provided by Air Force Services, including permissive temporary duty, travel and lodging.

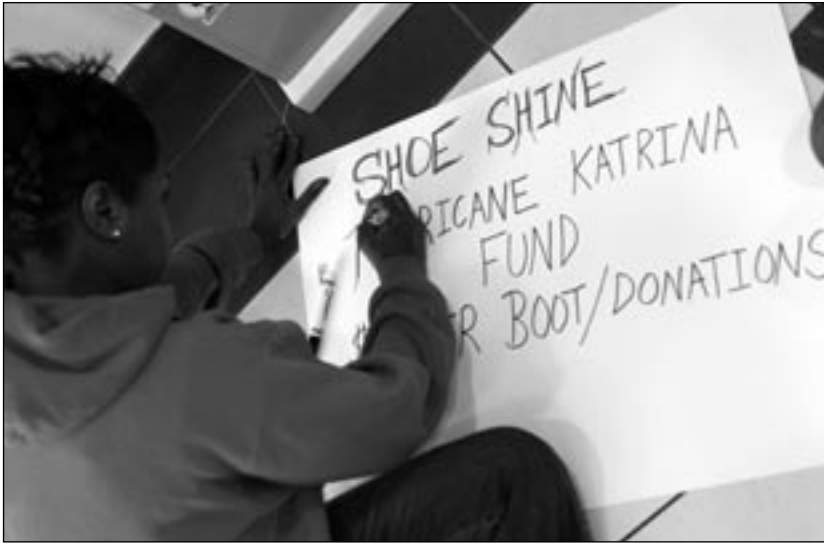
Air Force Ball

Chaplain (Col.) Jerry Houge and Airman German Marquez, 31st Security Forces Squadron, cut the cake during the 58th annual Air Force Ball Sept. 16. As part of tradition the oldest and the youngest Airmen cut the Air Force birthday cake. Airmen of all ranks put on their mess dress or semi-formal uniforms and enjoyed the "America the Beautiful: Hawaii and Alaska" ball.



Airman Nathan J. Doza

Stepping up to the plate



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Above: Master Sgt. Phylis Coombs, 724th Air Mobility Squadron, creates posters for an old-fashioned shoe shining Sept. 15 at the Aviano Base Exchange. The 724th AMS Booster Club held the fundraiser to raise money for the people in the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Right: The 724th Booster Club raised more than \$800 for the hurricane victims.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Closure: The Housing Office and Furniture Maintenance Office will be closed Oct. 10 for Columbus Day.

Command chiefs address Airmen's concerns

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force joined command chief master sergeants from Air Force major commands during a forum at the Air Force Association's 2005 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 12.

"This is truly a historic time in which we serve in the Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "Sixty-four percent of our force today is engaged 24/7 in projecting operations to sustain the military and national defense force."

The forum provided a platform for one of the most important aspects of a senior enlisted leader's job; communication with Airmen, Chief Murray said.

One topic concerned the possible future of physical fitness being tied to performance reports and promotions as a discriminating factor.

Although senior Air Force leaders are reviewing the issue, and there are proposals to document fitness levels on performance reports, nothing has been

finalized, Chief Murray said.

The Air Force places an emphasis on the health, welfare and fitness levels that will be factors for the future of the Air Force.

"(Fitness) is a readiness issue for us, and we're not going to back away from that," Chief Murray said. "It is my great concern about Airmen we place in situations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places ... about how fit they are to be there -- physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally."

Another training-related question revealed concerns about the role of Airmen in the war on terrorism. As more and more Airmen see combat up close and personal, Air Force officials are finding ways to prepare them for it.

Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, from Air Combat Command, said the command has an air expeditionary combat Airman's course at every base that teaches basic life-saving skills needed in a combat environment.

The Air Force goes through a vali-

dation process for requirements that a forward-deployed commander sees as needed to fulfill the mission.

By using this validation process, "we will only send the number of people that a commander needs, and then ensure those people are properly trained for the job in which they are needed," Chief Popp said.

"We are in a constant state of training for all Airmen," Chief Murray said. "It is also important to recognize how well we have taken lessons learned and used those lessons learned to update our training needs."

A question was also raised about proper wear of the uniform and rules for the wear of the fitness uniform.

"In October we will have a uniform board to address these and many other issues," Chief Murray said. "We have a lot of uniform issues right now ... we're working to field a new utility uniform, and we're working to get you an updated [Air Force Instruction 36-2903]." (Air Force Print News Service)

Sergeant walks away from mortar blast

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Chris Power, 31st maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulic system chief received the Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. Robert Yates Tuesday in Hangar One.

Sergeant Power was deployed to Balad AB, Iraq for Air Expeditionary Force 5/6. He was returning from a medical appointment and crossing the street at a roundabout when an 82 mm mortar exploded about 20 feet behind him. It was the first of seven mortars that exploded during that attack.

"It felt like someone had punched me in the back and hit me in the head with a baseball. I was standing in a cloud of smoke in a daze. My head hurt and I was too afraid to touch it," Sergeant Power said. "You know how in 'Saving Private Ryan' when he got attacked everything moved really slowly? Well, it was like that. I'm sure everything was happening quickly, but it seemed things were moving at a slower pace and everything was muffled. I was in shock and disbelief. I remembered thinking it was a mortar, it had to be a mortar."

Standing stunned in his official physical training gear, Sergeant Power said he heard another mortar explode.

"There were no bunkers nearby, so I walked across the street towards some trees and sat at the edge of a water runoff ditch," Sergeant Power said. "Another one hit, so I decided I should lie down in the ditch. I was bleeding all over myself. I remember an Army staff sergeant coming to me and covering me while we were mortared. He said he was amazed I could walk out from the smoke."

Sergeant Power said security forces, off-and-on duty medics and other people suddenly came to his aid.

"I remember a guy in Air Force PT gear treating me. He was dousing me with water and I was getting dirty and muddy," he said. "Someone asked if I can walk and I didn't see why I couldn't because I walked to the ditch. I tried to walk, but my legs became Jell-O so they carried me and put me in the back seat of a black OSI vehicle."

Not having to travel very far, Sergeant Power quickly arrived at the hospital.

"It became a full house real quick. I was bombarded by people; nurses and



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Tech. Sgt. Chris Power, 31st Maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulic system section chief, receives the Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander. Sergeant Power was deployed to Iraq for AEF 5/6 when a mortar detonated 20 feet behind him.

doctors were traveling back and forth and I thought 'I'm glad I had my dog's tags on,'" Sergeant Power said. "One of the nurses asked me if I had any hearing loss. I didn't think I did, but I did feel like I had been at a rock concert for a long time."

As he laid on a gurney, Sergeant Power's head was checked and pieces of shrapnel were dug out of his arm.

"I was offered anesthesia and I said no, I'll tell you when it hurts," he said. "We were still under attack. Every time there was a boom everyone ducked. After I was examined they told me to go to the bunker and then come back after the all clear sounded."

Sergeant Power was in the bunker for 20 minutes. When he came back, the hospital gave him a piece of paper.

"I got a ride back to the housing area by a lieutenant colonel Army Ranger. He asked me about the paper I had and I wanted to know why it was important. He told me I could get a medal, and I said I'm not getting a medal for this," Sergeant Power recalled. "When I got back, I let the squadron know what happened and I went to my room. I was still shook up

and I decided I didn't care about the pain and how much I needed to sleep. I wanted to go to work just to keep my mind off the event."

After the attack, Sergeant Power was shaking for a few days and every explosion he heard made him jumpy.

"I'm lucky it didn't kill me or lose a limb. I try not to think about what could have happened," he said. "When you first arrive at Balad, you're nervous about the first attack. After the first attack jitters were out of the way, I didn't think too much about the other attacks until I got hit."

Sergeant Power was hit June 16. The next day was his son's birthday.

"I didn't want my family to know right away," he said. "That day my wife and son flew to the states to visit my mom. I didn't tell them for a week, but I was calling them everyday so when I told them the news, it wouldn't be so bad."

Sergeant Power stayed in theater until he was medically evacuated out Aug. 7 for an unrelated illness.

"I didn't want to leave. I was so close to the end of the tour, but I didn't have a choice," he said.

You are not forgotten

Aviano honors POW/MIAs

By **1st Lt. Jennifer Ferrau**
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Emotions ran high during the Sept. 16 POW/MIA ceremony that took place at Aviano's Italian Headquarters building as Aviano Airmen and honorary squadron commanders gathered to pay tribute to American heroes.

The ceremony, organized by the local chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association, began with a retreat in which both the American and the Italian flags were lowered while volunteers sang both countries' National Anthems.

During the National Anthem, an F-16 from the 555th Fighter Squadron flew over; standing at attention was a wing formation comprised of four 31st Fighter Wing groups, the 724th Air Mobility Squadron and the Italian Air Force.

Following the folding of the U.S. and Italian flags, Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, spoke of the importance of this event. "Today provides us the opportunity to pause and take time from our busy lives to show these family members, and all former prisoners of war, that we remember and are thankful for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made for the cause of freedom," he said.

General Yates described the "indelible image" of Navy Capt. Jeremiah Denton after his February 1973 release from the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Captain Denton, a prisoner of war for more than seven

years, four of those spent in solitary confinement, arrived at Clark Air Base in the Philippines and said, "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances."

Overcome with emotion, the general paused at this moment, composed himself, and re-emphasized Captain Denton's humble statement of being held under "difficult circumstances." The general reminded the audience of the more than 140,000 Americans who were prisoners of war and more than 78,000 U.S. servicemen who remain unaccounted for.

At the end of his speech, General Yates read the names of the 31st Fighter Wing personnel who are still classified as prisoners of war or missing in action. He then introduced Ann Mills Griffiths, the executive director of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

Mrs. Griffiths, whose brother, U.S. Navy Reserves Lt. Cmdr. James Mills, has been listed as "missing in action" since Sept. 21, 1966, spoke of the importance of remembering the POWs and MIAs—The stark black and white POW/MIA flag is one she honors every day and encourages others to do the same.

Some people find it depressing, she said, but she tries to explain to people that it isn't depressing; rather it is important because "to us it's more than a symbol to remember all of those that we're trying to account for; it's also symbolic of our national commitment to doing exactly that ... so it's a symbol that we do not forget, but we renew that commitment constantly."



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz
Italian and American servicemembers pay their respect to prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Aviano's Missing in Action

- Maj. Joseph Morrison, 31st Fighter Wing, lost Nov. 25, 1968.
- Maj. John Robertson, 555th Fighter Tactical Squadron, lost Sept. 16, 1966.
- Capt. Fielding Featherston, 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, lost Dec. 30, 1969.
- Capt. Douglas Ferguson, 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, lost Dec. 30, 1969.
- Capt. Charles Lane, 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, lost Aug. 23, 1967.
- Capt. Bill Reed, 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, lost July 24, 1970.
- Lt. San Francisco, 31st Fighter Wing, lost Nov. 25, 1968.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth
Above: Senior Airman Paul Stout and Staff Sgt. Simon Zika, Aviano Honor Guard members, fold the U.S. flag while Italian air force members fold their flag during the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony Sept. 16.

Right: Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of POW/MIA families, receives a gift from Tech. Sgt. Sarah Benton, Aviano Air Force Sergeants Association member.



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz

PHA

The 31st Medical Group has initiated an online combined healthcare questionnaire. Airmen will be notified if they are due for a preventive health assessment and must complete the questionnaire at <https://sg.usafe.af.mil/chq/>. Primary care managers will review the questionnaire and medical records and will schedule appointments as needed. People on the personal reliability program are not authorized to take the questionnaire.

Auditions

The Aviano Community Theater and the Aviano High School Drama Club is holding auditions for "A Christmas Carol--The Musical" at 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Singers, actors, dancers and parts for all ages need to be filled. The play will be performed the first two weekends in December. For more information, e-mail frank.lewandowski@eu.dodea.edu.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University provides reimbursement upon successful completion of the oral/practical, general, airframe and powerplant exams. The university is also accepting registration for the powerplant reciprocating engines course starting Monday and the powerplant turbine course starting Oct. 10. Classes are condensed and students can register until the first day of class. For more information, call Ext. 5140

Promotions

The next wing promotion ceremony is 9 a.m. Wednesday in Hangar One.

PTA meeting

A Parent Teacher Association general membership meeting is 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Aviano Elementary School. The PTA invites families to join them for an evening of bingo, prizes, popcorn and a chance to

meet parents and teachers. For more information, e-mail aesptamembers@yahoo.com.

Retiree dental day

The 31st Dental Squadron is hosting its fourth annual Retiree Dental Day Sept. 30. Appointments can be made through the Retiree Activity Office at Ext. 5665.

Climate Survey

The Air Force Climate Survey launches Oct. 1 and is at <http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=6572>.

Hispanic American Heritage

Hispanic American Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15 and events include a recipe book and banquet ticket sale from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Oct. 10 at the base exchange, a fun run/walk/health fair at 11 a.m. Oct. 4 at the Dragon Fitness Center, crafts at the Community Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 12 and a Banquet at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at LaBella Vista. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sonora Vasquez at Ext. 7982 or Staff Sgt. Adriana Obregon at Ext. 5018.

CDC

There is an opening at the Child Development Center for a child one to two years-old from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. For more information, call 349-694-5424 or e-mail daureen.martin@aviano.af.mil.

Bella Befana Bazaar

The annual Bella Befana Bazaar is visiting Aviano Sept. 30 through Oct. 2, courtesy of the Aviano Officers'/Civilians' Spouses Club. Aviano shoppers will have access to merchandise from more than 16 countries and 100 vendors, all tax free. The bazaar is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 in Hangar One, Two and Three and the wash-rack. The bazaar is open to all NATO ID card and U.S. passport holders. The AOCSC

is also looking for volunteers for the bazaar. Volunteers are eligible for door prizes. If interested in volunteering, call Jennifer Fogle at 0434-96-1349 or 349-508-6733, or e-mail her at befanavolunteer2005@yahoo.com.

Briefing

Family members of deployed personnel are invited to a briefing at 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Community Center. During the briefing, questions will be answered and child care will be provided. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 0434-30-5407.

AFN Salutes

Air Force News has started a new recognition program for Aviano members. It's a way to publicly recognize a troop, co-worker, civilian, volunteer or anyone going above and beyond in your unit or base agency. It's the "AFN Salutes" program and consists of a spot that will run on both radio and television periodically throughout the day for up to two weeks at a time. The message is accompanied by background music on radio and a video back-drop also for TV. E-mail submissions, including the rank/title, name, unit or base agency and a few sentences explaining the achievement to zfm@aviano.af.mil.

Recycling rules

The Aviano Community Ecological Area is the place where Aviano residents should take bulky and hazardous household waste for disposal. It's located in the industrial area near POV Inspections. Their hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays. Details and a map to the area can be found on the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Web site on the Intranet. Other communities have their own ecological areas for residents; see the Web site for details on specific village requirements.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Bad News Bears" Rated PG-13 - A former pro baseball player becomes a coach for a little league team that accepts all players, regardless of their abilities. Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Greg Kinnear

Today, 8 p.m. - "The Dukes of Hazzard" Rated PG-13 - Bo and Luke Duke, who with the help of their eye-catching cousin Daisy and moonshine-running Uncle Jesse, try and save the family farm from being destroyed by Hazzard County's corrupt commissioner Boss Hogg. Starring: Seann William Scott, Jessica Simpson

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Rated PG - An impoverished boy wins a tour, along with four other children, of a chocolate factory run by the eccentric Willy Wonka and his staff of Oompa-Loompas. Starring: Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "The Dukes of Hazzard" Rated PG-13

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "The Devil's Reject" Rated R - The unthinkable horror and chaos continues a few weeks after the events depicted in "House of 1000 Corpses," as the murderous Firefly family is forced on the lam after a bloody showdown at their home. Starring: Sid Haig, Bill Moseley

Tuesday, 7 p.m. - "The Dukes of Hazzard" Rated PG-13

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Bad News Bears" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "The Devil's Reject" Rated R

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

ANCIENT ATTRACTIONS

Rome blends the old-world with modern life

By 1st Lt. Nicole Dubnicay
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Just like taking a trip to Disney World, Rome's jam-packed with things to do and places to see, all within one centralized location.

Most attractions are open throughout the week; the Colosseum is open during daylight hours, guided tours are offered by the monument for 3.50€ in addition to 10€ entry fees. Unofficial tour guides outside the Colosseum will tell you they offer a shorter wait, but they cost an average of 15€ plus the entry fee. The tour takes you through the seating areas of the Colosseum and explains the history of the gladiators, but the floor of the giant stadium is closed for renovation for the next couple years.

From the Colosseum, you can see the arch of Constantine and the Roman forum; admission to the Old Forum is included in the Colosseum fee. It's advised to wear comfortable shoes; most of the roads are old Roman - constructed of large stones with gaps between.

A nice stroll or short metro ride will take you to the Trevi Fountain. The design centers on the figure of Neptunus Rex standing on a shell chariot drawn by winged steeds and led by a pair of tritons. It's believed a person who throws a coin into the fountain will return to Rome in their lifetime.

From the fountain you can walk up Via delle Stamperia to Via del Triton and the Spanish Steps. Both locations are popular hangouts during evening hours. The shopping area near the Spanish Steps is filled with designer stores like Fendi, Gucci and Prada; and stays open until 8 p.m.

There are many restaurants located around the Spanish Steps and Trevi Foun-



1st Lt. Nicole Dubnicay

The massive and majestic Colosseum is ancient Rome's most famous monument.

tain. Explore the side streets off the main shopping drag to find many quaint restaurants with excellent food. It's a great way to end an early evening of shopping at your favorite designer store.

On the other side of the city, is the richest country per square foot in the world. The Vatican has a large museum and gardens. If you're hoping to see the Sistine Chapel, you'll have to pay the museum entrance fee. If the Sistine Chapel is on your must see list, check with USO Rome (www.uso.org/rome/) before the trip; the attraction is closed some weekends.

Saint Peter's Square is enormous and a must see. The Basilica offers audio guides with a thorough explanation of the chapel, which was built over the tomb of St. Peter himself. It's a long climb up the dome; an elevator only goes to the first main roof. After that, visitors must take a small winding staircase (not recommended for the claustrophobic). The top offers beautiful views

of the square and parts of the city.

There is a strict dress code for all attractions in the Vatican. Men and women wearing shorts and tank tops are not allowed entrance. Women cannot wear short skirts either. To be safe make sure skirts and Capri pants are below the knee.

Getting around is easy if your hotel is near a metro line. If staying outside the metro, busses run to various locations, but the routes are somewhat confusing. Remember to take pen and paper to write down what line you're traveling and where you can pick it up if no bus routes are posted. Before you hop on the bus, make note of the stop closest to your hotel - stops are different on opposite sides of the road.

Taxis are an option if you are going a short distance, but they are expensive. If taking a taxi, make sure the driver turns on the meter and has the proper paperwork; a 15 minute cab ride can easily cost more than 30 €.

Unfortunately, there are no city passes for Rome, but you can purchase public transportation fare for about 4€ per day. The tickets last 24 hours and provide access to local trains, metro and busses.

The metro lines stop around 1 a.m., but there are night-time busses that run through and out of the city. Look for bus stops with a picture of an owl. The night busses run less frequently, but can provide a ride home in a pinch. Just like the regular bus system, make sure you make note of the bus numbers and stops before it's too late.

Rome offers some of the most beautiful, priceless and famed art collections in the world. Whether you are interested in art, history, shopping or just touring around and eating, Rome has everything you are looking for.

Be accountable: Always let someone know when you plan to leave the area and when you plan to return - even if it's just Venice.

Local area events

Apple festival- Tolmezzo is hosting an Apple Festival Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. Events include an antique market, food and traditional arts and crafts.

Folklore- Enjoy folk music and other folklore events Sunday in Sauris.

Sailing race- The 37th annual Sailing Race LaBarcolana is Oct. 9 in Trieste.

For more information on these events, call Ext. 7555

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Castles in Austria
- Saturday - Pisa and Davinci museums
- Oct. 1 - San Marino
- Oct. 7- 10 - Prague
- Oct. 8 - Wine tasting in the Friuli region
- Oct. 8 - Croatia by boat

- Oct. 8 - Castle Brando Spa

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

Aviano kicks up its heels



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Varsity women's soccer team member Jessica Van-Oort clears the ball from her goal area during an intramural soccer match between the women's varsity team and the 31st Security Forces B team, Monday. The 31st SFS B team shut out the Women's Varsity team, 10-0.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Jeremy Thompson, 31st SFS B team member, collides with Varsity women's soccer team member LaJuana Fields as they race for the ball.

Two additional matches were played Monday night. The 31st Medical Group won, 3-2 against the 31st Logistics Readiness team and the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron swept the 31st SFS A team, 3-0.

Fly Bys

Fitness closure

The fitness center in Area Two is closed for maintenance until Monday.

Batting cages

The Freedom Park batting cages will close for the winter Sept. 30.

Football frenzy

La Bella Vista invites football fans to watch the games, enjoy snacks and win prizes 5 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays for Monday Night Football. Call Ext. 4303 for more information.

Golf championship

The Alpine Golf Course is hosting a club championship Saturday and Sunday. The \$40 entry fee includes breakfast Saturday and lunch Sunday. Tee times will be posted one day prior to tournament.

Referees needed

The Aviano Officials Association is looking for high school football and volleyball officials for the upcoming season. Interested participants may call Joe Russo at 348-252-4885 or Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

Technicians needed

Outdoor recreation seeks ski and snowboard technicians and a lawn mower and small engine person. To apply or for more information, call Ext. 8623.

Outdoor Recreation

- Join outdoor recreation for a trout fishing expedition 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. The cost of transportation is \$5 per person and fisher's pay €3.50 per kg. for the fish caught. There is a no throwing back rule.

- A deep sea fishing trip to Caorle is Oct. 2. The trip departs from outdoor recreation 6 a.m. Cost is €50 and includes transportation, lunch on board, tackle and bait.

For more information on any of these trips, or to sign up, call Ext. 8623.

Aviano High School sports schedule

Football

Home games begin 1 p.m. at the Area F Dragon Fitness Center field

Saturday - Baumholder (Home)

Oct. 1 - Vilseck (away)

Oct. 8 - Hanau (Homecoming)

Oct. 15 - Patch (away)

Oct. 22 - Playoffs

Oct. 29 - Playoffs

Nov. 4 - Championships (Germany)

Volleyball

Home games begin 9 a.m. at the Aviano High School gym

Saturday - Milan (away)

Oct. 1 - AOSR (away)

Oct. 8 - Vicenza (Homecoming)

Oct. 15 - Naples, Patch, Vilseck (Home)

Oct. 22 - Naples (away)

Oct. 29 - Vicenza (away)

Nov. 3-5 - Championships (Germany)

Cross Country

Home meets begin 10 a.m. at Castello di Aviano

Saturday - Milan (away)

Oct. 1 - AOSR (away)

Oct. 8 - Vicenza (Homecoming)

Oct. 15 - Naples, Patch, Vilseck, Vicenza, Livorno (Home)

Oct. 22 - Naples (away)

Oct. 29 - Championships (Germany)

Rusty pliers serve as reminder for fallen American members

By Capt. Eric Elliott

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

I have a rusty pair of pliers on my desk at home. Rusty is actually an understatement. The handles are almost completely deteriorated and its jaws have been locked open for more than half a century.

I found them almost 20 years ago in a dusty field on the island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

During the early days of World War II, New Caledonia was a major staging area for American Forces in the Pacific. More than half a million U.S. troops, thousands of aircrafts, tanks and guns, hundreds of ships and millions of tons of cargo transited the island on their way to combat zones in Guadalcanal, New Guinea or Tarawa. In fact, during much of the war, there were several times more Americans on the island than the normal population of native Melanesians and French settlers.

To this day, much of New Caledonia retains reminders of the American presence. Quonset huts are prevalent both as homes and warehouses. Military surplus jeeps and Dodge trucks share the roads with late model Renaults and Peugeots. Several Liberty Ships remain stuck on the long coral reef surrounding the island. Two neighborhoods in Noumea, the island's main city, even still bear their US designations – Motor Pool and Receiving.

A Melanesian man named Joseph, who was a boy during the war, brought me to the field. He wanted to show me the wreckage of an American airplane, an Army Air Force B-25 medium bomber that crashed there in '42 or '43.

The field was about a half mile from the international airport. Shortly after Pearl Harbor Army engineers built the airfield and it became home to scores of fighters, bombers and transport aircraft.

Joseph lived at the edge of the field and

would sit and watch the airplanes take off and land. He told me about the Airmen he met. He remembered their smiles, their cockiness, their SPAM, their Hershey bars and their chewing gum. He told me about when one group of Airmen gathered the children from the village and taught them how to play baseball. He even recalls meeting a grounded fighter pilot who got in trouble for flying his P-38 under a nearby bridge.

One morning he saw a B-25 take-off. It was flying too low and too slow. He heard the impact and could see the explosion through the trees around his family's hut. He remembered the noise, the smell, the ambulances and fire trucks. He knew that the entire crew must have died in the crash.

There wasn't much left 40 years later when I visited the site. After the fire and the years in the tropics, only the two engines, parts of the landing gear and an outline of melted and oxidized aluminum remained to testify that it was once an airplane. There was also a rusty pair of pliers about where the cockpit would have been.

This month marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific, a war that lasted almost 14 years and resulted in the deaths of millions of civilians and military personnel from more than a dozen countries.

Was this crew flying to strike enemy ships or troops? Or was it flying to Fiji or Australia on a training or liaison mission? Or was it going to patrol the waters around the island for enemy submarines or ship? It really doesn't matter. This crew of anonymous Americans, like hundreds of thousands before and since, died far from their homes in the service of their country. And they, like all the men and women who have died in our country's wars, deserve our respect and appreciation. That is why I've kept these rusty pliers all these years, so I will always remember this aircrew and the others who have sacrificed their lives so I can remain free.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

AIRMAN ARTLESS

by Ben Schneider

